

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image compression device comprising:

an encoding unit performing predictive coding of an input video sequence having a plurality of frames;

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a first unit leaving first frames at predetermined intervals in the input video sequence to cause the encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first frames;

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a second unit discarding second frames, which lie between two of the first frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each second frame and perform predictive coding of a corresponding one of the first frames immediately preceding the second frame; and

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an output unit outputting only encoded data of the first frames created by the encoding unit in association with the first unit as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

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2. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the first frames that are left are either intra-coded pictures or predictive-coded pictures contained in the input video sequence, and the second frames which are discarded are predictive-coded pictures contained in the input video sequence.

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3. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoded data of the first frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a

predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

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4. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit, the first unit, the second unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder.

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15 5. The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the first unit and the second unit are arranged in an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder.

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25 6. An image compression method comprising the steps of: leaving first frames at predetermined intervals in an input video sequence having a plurality of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first frames, said encoding unit performing predictive coding of the input video sequence;

30 discarding second frames, which lie between two of the first frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each second frame and perform predictive coding of a corresponding one of the first frames immediately preceding the second frame; and

35 outputting only encoded data of the first frames created by the encoding unit in association with the leaving step as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

7. The image compression method according to claim 6  
wherein the first frames that are left are either intra-coded  
pictures or predictive-coded pictures contained in the input  
video sequence, and the second frames which are discarded are  
5 predictive-coded pictures contained in the input video sequence.

10 8. The image compression device according to claim 6  
wherein the encoded data of the first frames created by the  
encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a  
predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive  
coding of the entire input video sequence.

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20 9. The image compression method according to claim 6  
wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and  
the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding, the leaving  
step, the discarding step and the outputting step.

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30 10. The image compression method according to claim 6  
wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder so  
that the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding and the  
outputting step, and an external control unit connected to the  
MPEG2 encoder is arranged so that the external control unit  
performs the leaving step and the discarding step.

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